Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An adjustable transfer unit for transferring upright and aligned articles from a first to a second conveyor, ~~of the type~~ comprising:

a thrusting wheel driven in a rotary fashion by driving means and having radial blades,

a stationary curved support track provided below said radial blades, the articles being pushed by the radial blades on and along the support track between a delivery end of an inlet conveyor and a reception end of an outlet conveyor, and

railing means along at least one part of said support track, ~~characterized in that~~

wherein said inlet conveyor is a conveyor adapted to convey articles upright on their base on a transfer surface and said outlet conveyor is an overhead conveyor adapted to convey articles hanging from a projecting configuration on a top part thereof along ~~lifting~~ sustaining guides of the overhead outlet conveyor, with said support track of the transfer unit being connected to vertical movement means that can be driven to adapt the vertical distance between said support track and said sustaining ~~lifting~~ guides of the outlet conveyor to articles having said projecting configuration at different heights.

2. (Currently Amended) The unit, according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said support track can be moved by said vertical movement means between a top position suitable for small size articles, in which said support track is substantially level with said transfer surface of said inlet conveyor, and at least one lower position suitable for medium or large size articles, in which said support track is at a lower level than said transfer surface of inlet conveyor, with articles passing from transfer surface to said support track by falling by their own weight as they are moved within areas delimited at least by said radial blades and said railing means.

3. (Currently Amended) The unit, according to claim 2, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said vertical movement means include at least one unit of a vertical sleeve and nut.

4. (Currently Amended) The unit, according to claim 2, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said vertical movement means include at least one pair of vertical sleeve and nut units connected

together by means of a flexible traction element, such as a chain or belt, which flexible traction element is driven by a pinion gear or drive pulley connected to a power shaft of driving means to rotate said vertical sleeves in one direction or another.

5. (Currently Amended) The unit, according to claim 4, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said driving means include a reducer unit.

6. (Currently Amended) The unit, according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said thrusting wheel is made up of first and second circular structures, coaxial, and said radial blades include first radial blades attached to said first circular structure and second radial blades attached to said second circular structure, at predetermined angular separations along their respective circumferences, with adjustment and attachment means being provided to adjust the relative angular position between both said first and second circular coaxial structures in order to adapt the separations between said first and second radial blades to different size articles.

7. (Currently Amended) The unit, according to claim 6, wherein ~~characterized in that it includes~~ further comprising first and second inner wall parts attached respectively to said first and second circular coaxial structures and arranged on opposite sides of respective said first and second radial blades, with said first and second inner wall parts being placed at different radial distances from the centre of said thrusting wheel so that the former can rest at least partially superimposed on the latter when the separations between said first and second radial blades are reduced.

8. (Currently Amended) The unit, according to claim 6, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said driving means of said thrusting wheel include a reducer unit coupled to one of said first or second circular coaxial structures which in turn is joined to the other of said first or second circular coaxial structures by means of adjustment and attachment means.

9. (Currently Amended) The unit, according to claim 6, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said adjustment and attachment means include guide means of curved trajectory with respect to the centre of thrusting wheel in one of said first or second circular coaxial structures, guide followers being attached to the other of said first or second circular coaxial structures and arranged to move along said guide means, and releasable attachment means for blocking first and second circular coaxial structures together in a selected angular position.

10. (Currently Amended) The unit, according to claim 9, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said guide followers are provided at the ends of separators attached to one of said first or second circular coaxial structures, with the other of said first or second circular coaxial structures resting on said separators.

11. (Currently Amended) The unit, according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ a delivery end of said inlet conveyor is made up of a transfer surface level with a stationary support plane arranged below the open bottom walls of drop chutes associated with a rotary structure of an article positioning machine, with said articles being pushed along said stationary support plane by walls of said drop chutes and diverted towards said transfer surface by stationary deflecting means.

12. (Currently Amended) The unit, according to claim 6, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ a delivery end of said inlet conveyor is made up of a transfer surface level with a stationary support plane arranged below the open bottom walls of drop chutes associated with a rotary structure of an adjustable article positioning machine, with said articles being pushed along said stationary support plane by walls of said drop chutes and diverted towards said transfer surface by stationary deflecting means, with drop chutes of said adjustable positioning machine having multiple compartments of adjustable width for different size articles, with the adjustable positioning machine being capable of filling several of said compartments of each drop chute with upright articles during each turn of said rotary structure.

13. (Currently Amended) The unit, according to claim 12, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said predetermined angular separations between said radial blades along the respective said first and second circular coaxial structures are adapted to the separations between said drop chutes in the rotary structure of the adjustable positioning machine and can be adjusted according to the adjustment of said compartments in said drop chutes.

14. (Currently Amended) The unit, according to claim 11, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said driving means rotate said thrusting wheel at a speed such that the radial blades thereof move at the same tangential speed as the drop chutes of rotary structure of said adjustable positioning machine.